

REMARKS

This response places the above-referenced patent application in better condition for allowance, and therefore, is a proper response after Final pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 36, 37, 45 and 48-53 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 36, 37, 45, and 48-53 are allowed.

Claims 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 20, and 22 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6, 8, 12, 18 and 20 of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/004,172 and in view of PCT Publication WO 98/12738. A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is enclosed to overcome the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, the double patenting rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

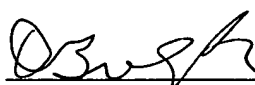
No other rejections are presented against claims 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 20, and 22, and therefore, such claims are allowable.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the

undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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